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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG PRESENTS:

# KNUCKLES

## THE ECHIDNA

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY



THE  
HUNTER  
AND  
THE  
HUNTED!

DIRECT EDITION

GALAN  
PENDERS

# GNUCKLES

**BOOK THIRTY-ONE**

## **KING OF THE HILL PART TWO OF THREE**

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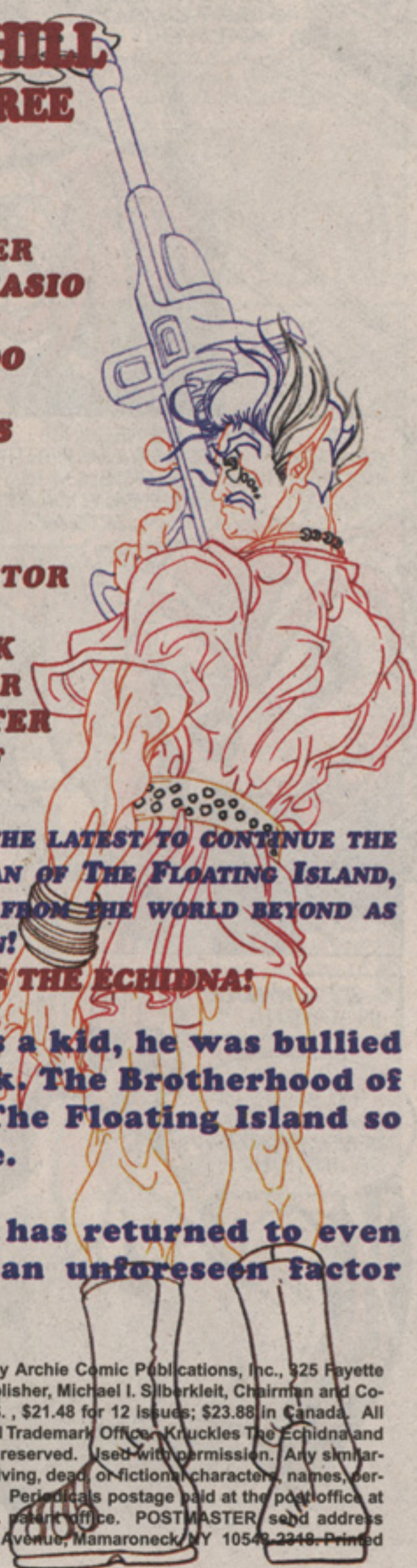
**BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN FROM WITHIN!**

**ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... GNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!**

**The story so far... when Knuckles was a kid, he was bullied by a slightly older gorilla named Monk. The Brotherhood of Guardians secretly threw Monk off The Floating Island so he couldn't bother Knuckles anymore.**

**It is now the present day, and Monk has returned to even the score with Knuckles. However, an unforeseen factor has come to play...**

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IN THE COMMAND CENTER OF HAVEN, HOME OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF GUARDIANS, WE FIND SABRE AND SOJOURNER DEALING WITH AN UNEXPECTED PROBLEM...

SOMETHING IS SERIOUSLY WRONG!

ALL OF OUR MONITORS HAVE GONE OFFLINE!

ANY IDEA AS TO THE CAUSE?

THE SENSORS ARE OFF THE DIAL!

WE NEED TO ESTABLISH WHETHER THE PROBLEM IS INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL IN ORIGIN!

WELL, LET'S JUST HAVE A LOOK AT THE MAIN CIRCUIT BOARD THEN!

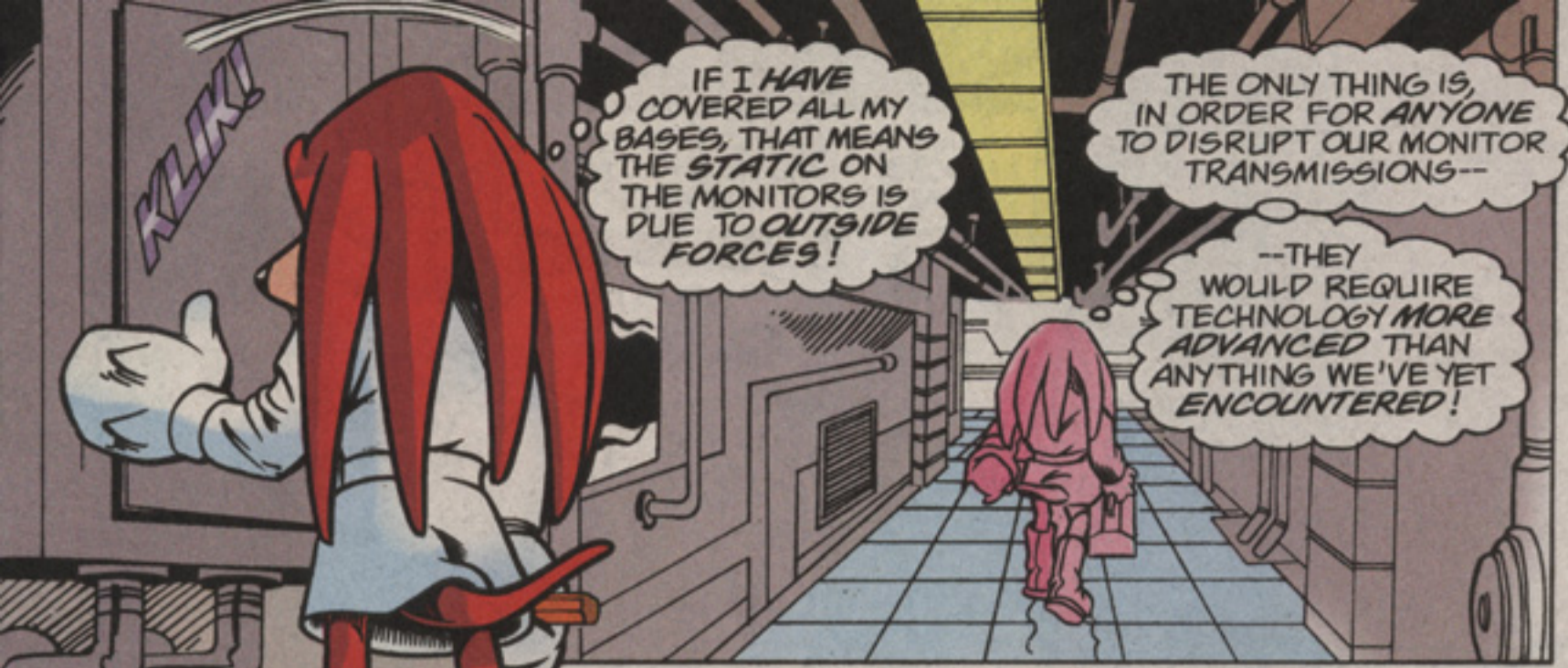
ALLOWING, OF COURSE, THAT OUR PROBLEM IS HERE INSTEAD OF--

"--ELSEWHERE IN HAVEN..."

Hmmm... NO SIGNS OF BURN-OUT OR DETERIORATION OF ANY KIND--

--OR EVEN FOUL PLAY FOR THAT MATTER!

SO, WHAT AM I MISSING?



IF I HAVE COVERED ALL MY BASES, THAT MEANS THE *STATIC* ON THE MONITORS IS DUE TO *OUTSIDE FORCES!*

THE ONLY THING IS, IN ORDER FOR ANYONE TO DISRUPT OUR MONITOR TRANSMISSIONS--

--THEY WOULD REQUIRE TECHNOLOGY MORE ADVANCED THAN ANYTHING WE'VE YET ENCOUNTERED!



AHH, THERE YOU ARE, LOCKE!

HAVE YOU SOLVED OUR CONUNDRUM YET?

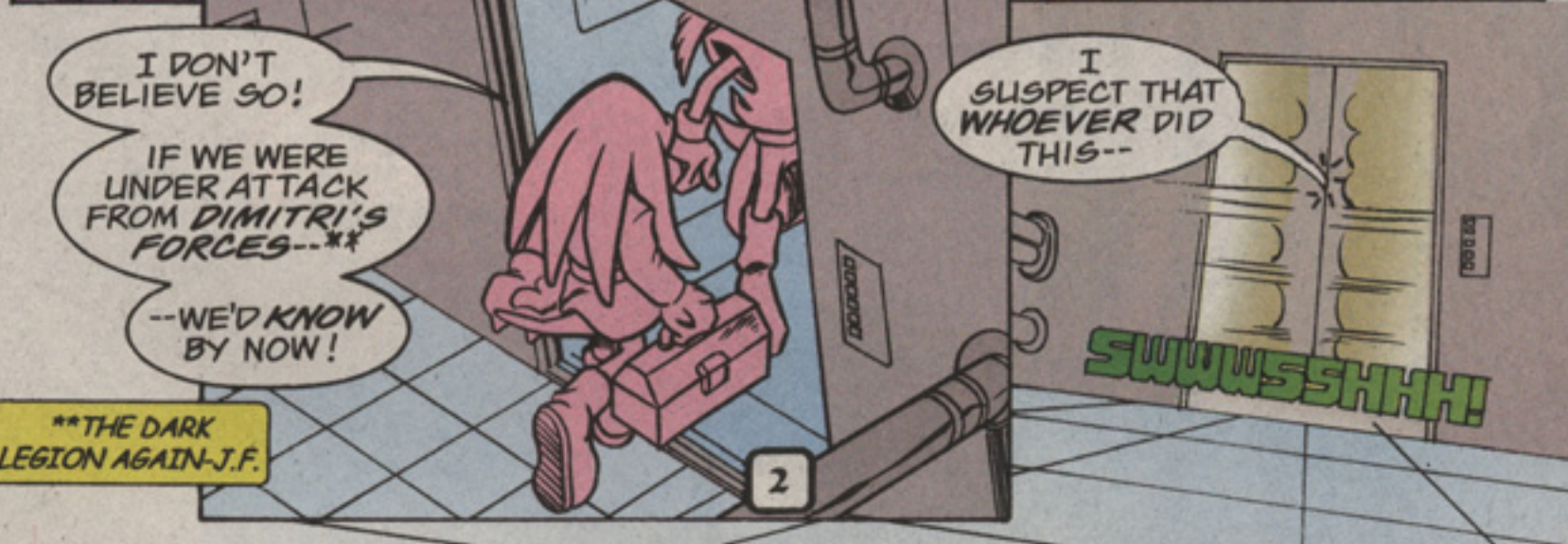
GRANDFATHER THUNDERHAWK--

--OUR EQUIPMENT APPEARS TO BE IN PEAK CONDITION, SO OUR MALFUNCTION IS MORE LIKELY DUE TO SOME *OUTSIDE FORCE!*



COULD IT BE MORITORI REX?\*

\*MEMBER OF THE DARK LEGION-J.F.



I DON'T BELIEVE SO!

IF WE WERE UNDER ATTACK FROM *DIMITRI'S FORCES*--\*\*

--WE'D KNOW BY NOW!

I SUSPECT THAT WHOEVER DID THIS--

SWWWSSHHH!

\*\*THE DARK LEGION AGAIN-J.F.


"... IS VERY LIKELY ENGAGED  
IN SOMETHING HE'D RATHER  
NO ONE ELSE KNEW ABOUT!"

WHO DO  
YOU THINK YOU  
ARE, BUSTER?

IF YOU  
DON'T GET THAT  
PEA-SHOOTER  
OUTTA MY FACE--

DON'T BE  
AN IDIOT,  
MONK!

THE  
MAN LOOKS  
LIKE HE MEANS  
**BUSINESS!**



-- I'M  
GONNA WRAP  
IT AROUND YOUR  
NECK!

the THRILL of  
the HUNT



DON'T PLAY THE INNOCENT WITH ME, KNUCKLES!

I'VE STUDIED YOU FOR A LONG TIME, AND I KNOW WHO AND WHAT YOU ARE!

THAT'S WHY I'VE SOUGHT YOU OUT!

THIS OUGHTTA BE GOOD!

HEY!! WHAT'S THAT--



--COMING FROM OUT OF THOSE BUSHES?!!



SHADES OF DIMITRI!!!

IT'S A ROBOTICIZED OVER-LANDER!!!

HARDLY!

THIS IS MY MANSERVANT, ARYU ONE-TWO, A VERY UNIQUE CREATURE, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!



WHOA! HE JUST PICKED UP MONK AS IF HE WERE A SACK OF POTATOES!



ARYU IS CAPABLE OF MANY THINGS!

NOW THEN--

--PERHAPS I COULD PERSUADE YOU TO FOLLOW ALONG?





**A**T THAT MOMENT, INSIDE THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF HAVEN, WE FIND THE GUARDIAN LOCKE INTERRUPTED IN THE COURSE OF HIS WORK BY NONE OTHER THAN...

ARCHIMEDES!

WHAT HAPPENED?  
WHERE'S  
KNUCKLES?

I WENT  
AFTER THE  
LAD AS YOU  
REQUESTED--

--BUT HE WAS  
NOWHERE TO  
BE FOUND!

NOT IN HIS DEN OR  
ANYWHERE I COULD THINK OF  
IN ECHIDNAOPOLIS!

HE COULD BE  
IN DANGER!

I'VE CHECKED EVERY  
CIRCUIT ON OUR MONITORING  
SYSTEM, AND BY ALL RIGHTS,  
WE SHOULD BE ONLINE!

IF SOMEONE  
IS CAPABLE OF  
INCAPACITATING  
THIS GROUP, THEY'RE  
DEFINITELY A FORCE  
TO BE RECKONED  
WITH!

THAT SIGNIFIES  
TO ME SOME OUTSIDE  
FORCE MAY BE TRYING  
TO CRIPPLE US!

AGREED!

WE HAVEN'T A  
MOMENT TO LOSE!  
WE HAVE TO FIND  
KNUCKLES!

WHERE  
TO FIRST,  
LOCKE?

OUT THERE!  
THATAWAY!

**BAMF!**

END OF CHAPTER ONE

# the THRILL of the HUNT

## Chapter Two

AS LOCKE AND ARCHIMEDES SEARCH FOR THE YOUNGEST GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, WE FIND THE OBJECT OF THEIR SEARCH HESITATE AS HE APPROACHES HUNTER'S YACHT...

I CAN  
IMAGINE  
FOR  
WHAT!

ISN'T SHE  
A BEAUTY?  
I HAD HER  
SPECIALLY  
BUILT!

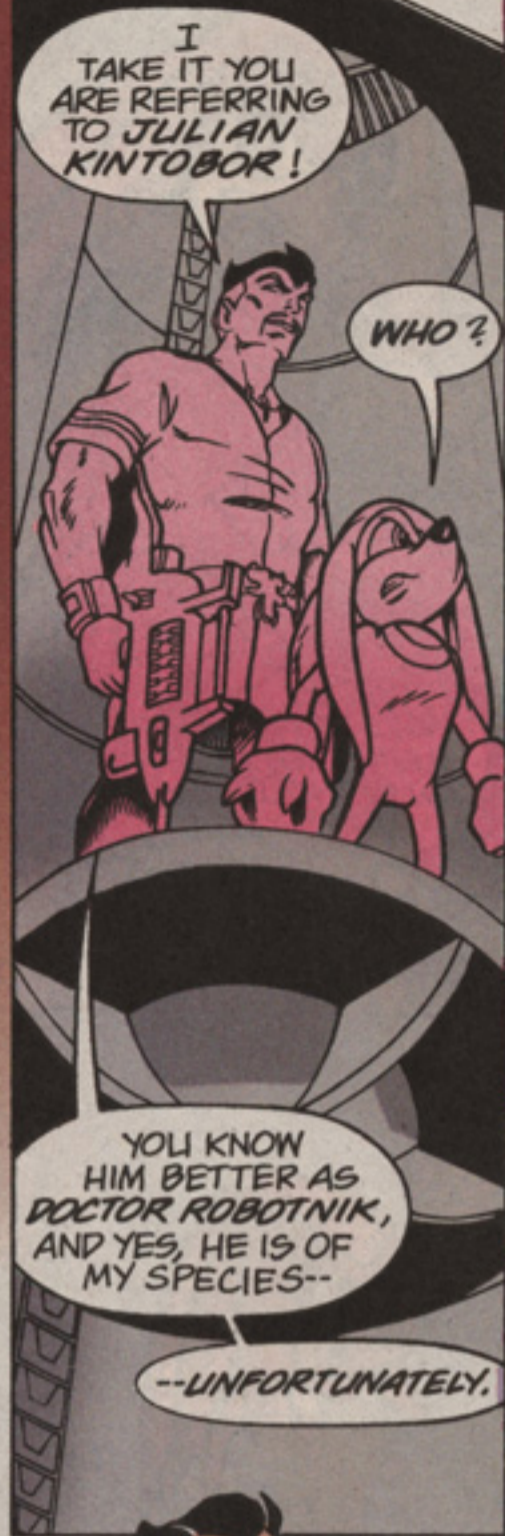
I DOUBT THAT! IT'S  
MORE THAN JUST A MEANS  
OF TRANSPORTATION!

IT IS ALSO  
MY HOME!  
COME!

THIS IS THE BRIDGE--  
THE NERVE CENTER  
OF MY SHIP!

IT CAN FUNCTION AUTOMATICALLY--  
OR I CAN FLY HER MYSELF WHENEVER  
THE MOOD STRIKES ME!

YOU WOULDN'T  
BE RELATED TO A  
CERTAIN OVERWEIGHT  
MANIAC WITH DELUSIONS  
OF GRANDEUR?



I TAKE IT YOU ARE REFERRING TO JULIAN KINTOBOR!

WHO?

YOU KNOW HIM BETTER AS DOCTOR ROBOTNIK, AND YES, HE IS OF MY SPECIES--

--UNFORTUNATELY.



THE MAN IS SIMPLY NOT A SPORTSMAN!

OH MY--!

WE HAVEN'T CROSSED PATHS YET, THOUGH SOMEDAY I SUSPECT WE WILL!

WELCOME TO MY DEN, KNUCKLES!

I SEE YOU ADMIRING MY TROPHY COLLECTION!



HEDGEHOG



POCAL BEAR



MOOSE



EAGLE

ADMIRING?!!

MORE LIKE TRYING TO KEEP FROM LIPCHUCKING ALL OVER YOUR CARPET, BUB!

THIS IS THE SICKEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN IN MY LIFE!



WHAT KIND OF MONSTER HUNTS DOWN LIVING CREATURES LIKE THIS?



MONSTER?



YOU THINK I KILL IN COLD BLOOD?



IF THERE'S ONE THING I'M NOT--

HA-BLAM!

HEY!!!

I COULD HAVE SHOT YOU DEAD JUST THEN, BUT THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN RIDICULOUSLY EASY!

YOU SEE, KNUCKLES, I ENJOY THE COMPETITION! I LIKE AN OPPONENT WHO FIGHTS BACK!

WELL, IF IT'S A FIGHT YOU WANT--

--I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO GIVE YOU ONE!

CAN YOU TAKE A BEATING WITHOUT A GUN, BIG MAN?

--IT'S BEING A POOR SPORT!

THOUGH I COULD PROBABLY TAKE YOU IN A PHYSICAL CHALLENGE, I PREFER A CONTEST OF STRATEGY!

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'LL COOPERATE?

MONK? HE'S NO SKIN OFF MY NOSE!

I ANTICIPATED SOME FORM OF PERSUASION MIGHT BE IN ORDER--

-- SO I LOOKED AROUND FOR THE BEST REASON I COULD FIND IN ORDER TO CONVINCE YOU!

NEED I SAY MORE?

**E**LSEWHERE ON THE FLOATING ISLAND,  
NEAR THE SITE WHERE KNUICKLES AND  
MONK FIRST ENCOUNTERED HUNTER...

AHA!

MY SUSPICIONS WERE  
CORRECT, ARCHIMEDES!

SOMEONE  
HAS DEFINITELY  
TAMPERED WITH  
OUR  
EQUIPMENT!

AND BY  
THE LOOKS OF  
THIS LITTLE  
DEVICE--

--THEY KNEW EXACTLY  
WHAT THEY WERE DOING!

OBVIOUSLY,  
WHOEVER-IT-WAS  
KNOWS ABOUT THE  
GUARDIANS, WHICH  
DOESN'T LEAVE US  
A LONG LIST OF  
SUSPECTS!

WHOEVER-  
IT-WAS MAY  
HAVE TRIED  
COVERING  
THEIR  
TRACKS--

BAMF!

--BUT HE, SHE OR  
IT WASN'T ENTIRELY  
SUCCESSFUL!

TAKE A  
LOOK!

UNLESS OUR FRIEND CAN  
WALK ON AIR, THEY  
COULDN'T HELP BUT LEAVE  
AN IMPRESSION!

ALLOWING FOR  
THE POSSIBILITY  
THIS MAY BE A DECOY  
OF SOME KIND--

BAMF!

"--LET'S FOLLOW THE TRACKS AND SEE WHERE THEY LEAD!"



NOW THAT THE GORILLA IS AWAKE--HERE! PUT THESE ON!

K-K-KLING!

I'M NOT EXACTLY WILD OVER THE STYLE!

GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON WHY I SHOULD DO ANYTHING YOU SAY, OVERLANDER!



I'LL GIVE YOU SEVERAL!

THOSE LASERS YOU SEE DESCENDING FROM THE CEILING CAN BE PRETTY CONVINCING!

NOW, LET'S QUIT WASTING MY TIME, SHALL WE?

YOU MAY HAVE ME IN THE BAG, HUNTER--



--BUT WHAT MAKES YOU THINK BIG, TALL AND HAIRY IS GOING ALONG WITH THE PROGRAM ONCE WE'RE ON THE OUTSIDE?

YOU MAY BE MORE ALTRUISTIC\* THAN OUR MONKEY FRIEND, KNUCKLES--

--BUT HE'LL LEARN WHAT'S IN HIS BEST INTEREST BEFORE LONG!



SNAP!

\*MEANING 'UNSELFISH!' -DICTIONARY GABRIE



NOW GO!



THAT SURE WAS FRIENDLY!  
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO DO, MONK?



WAIT--  
**ARRGH!!**

**AAHHHRRR!**



huh  
huh

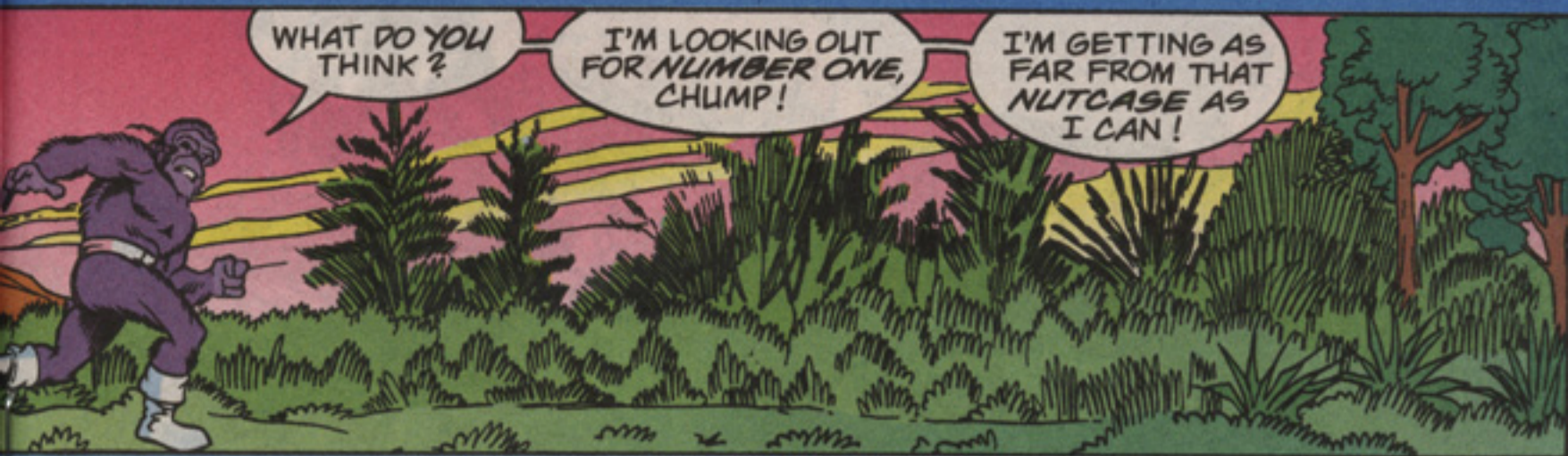
OOOH--  
THAT REALLY HURT!



HEY, CHLIMP--

YEAH--  
WELL--





WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I'M LOOKING OUT FOR NUMBER ONE, CHUMP!

I'M GETTING AS FAR FROM THAT NUTCASE AS I CAN!



--I THINK THAT EXPLAINS THE NECK-WEAR!



DON'T YOU SEE, MONK?

HUNTER DIDN'T WANT US-- TO GO IT ALONE!



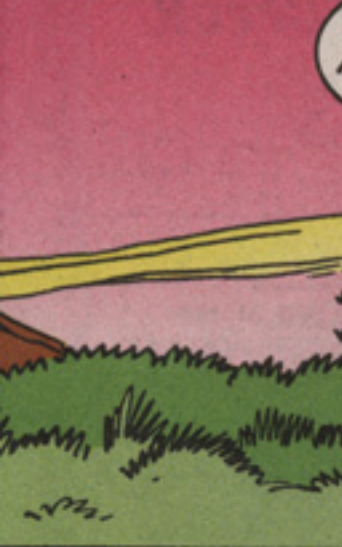
HE WANTED A CHALLENGE!

SO, EITHER WE GIVE HIM ONE--



--OR WE'RE THE DEAD DUCKS!

AS MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT--



--YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT!

OOH--MY HEAD!



C'MON! THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MUCH OF A HEAD START HE'S GIVING!





IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I LAST TRACKED DOWN SO WORTHY AN ADVERSARY--

-- THAT I HAD BEST SAVOR THE EXPERIENCE--

-- FOR WHO CAN SAY WHEN THE NEXT TIME WILL COME ?

ALL RIGHT, ECHIDNA--

-- LET THE HUNT  
**COMMENCE!**



TO BE CONTINUED...

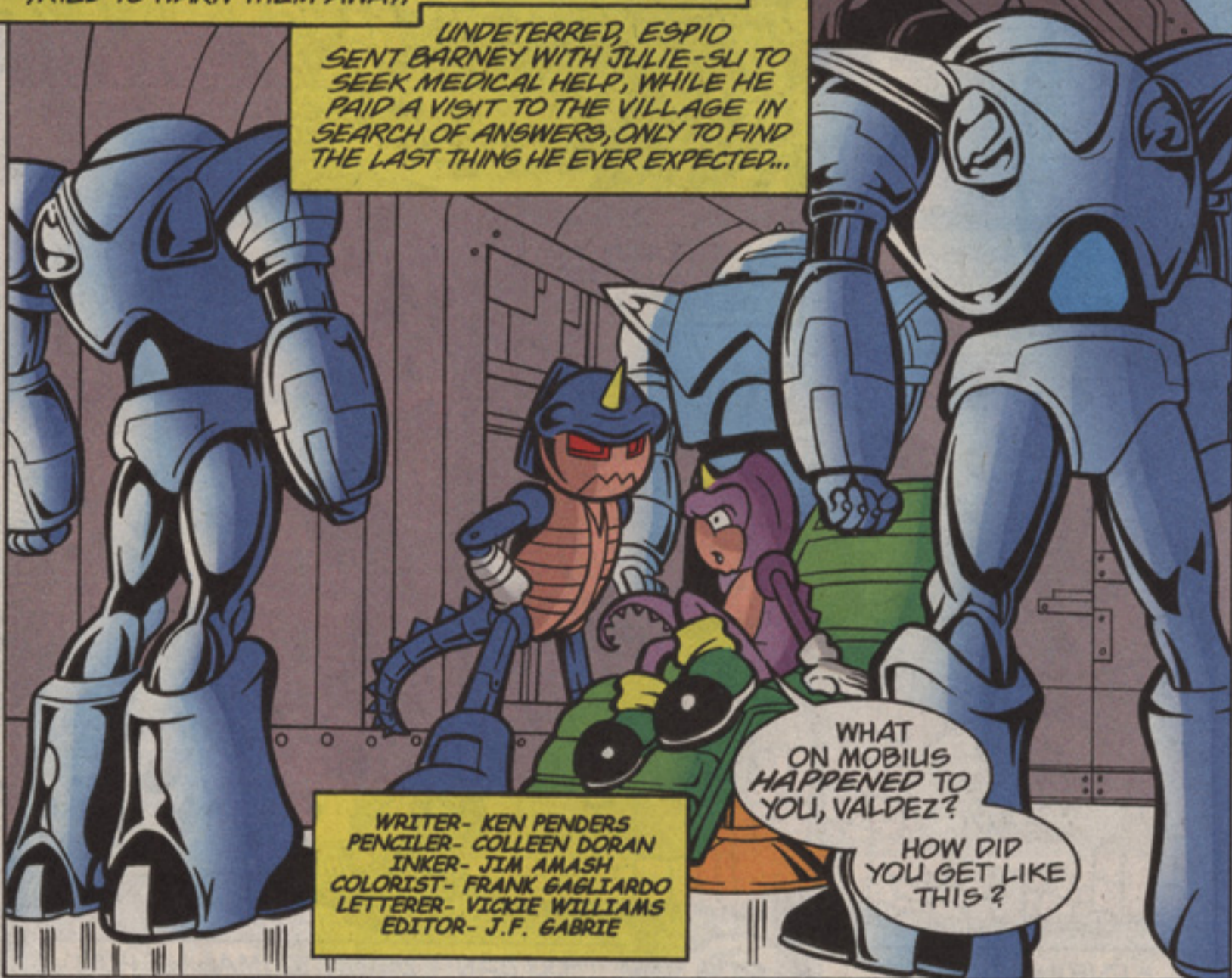
# ESPIO THE CHAMELEON

PART 2

THE  
BEST  
OF  
FRIENDS

**T**HE STORY THIS FAR... *ESPIO ASSISTED JULIE-SU IN HER SEARCH FOR KNUCKLES. THE INTREPID DUO CAME ACROSS BARNEY, A FELLOW CHAMELEON FROM ESPIO'S VILLAGE, LYING INJURED IN THE FOREST. BEFORE FALLING UNCONSCIOUS, BARNEY TRIED TO WARN THEM AWAY.*

*UNDETERRED, ESPIO SENT BARNEY WITH JULIE-SU TO SEEK MEDICAL HELP, WHILE HE PAID A VISIT TO THE VILLAGE IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS, ONLY TO FIND THE LAST THING HE EVER EXPECTED...*



WHAT  
ON MOBILIS  
HAPPENED TO  
YOU, VALDEZ?

HOW DID  
YOU GET LIKE  
THIS?

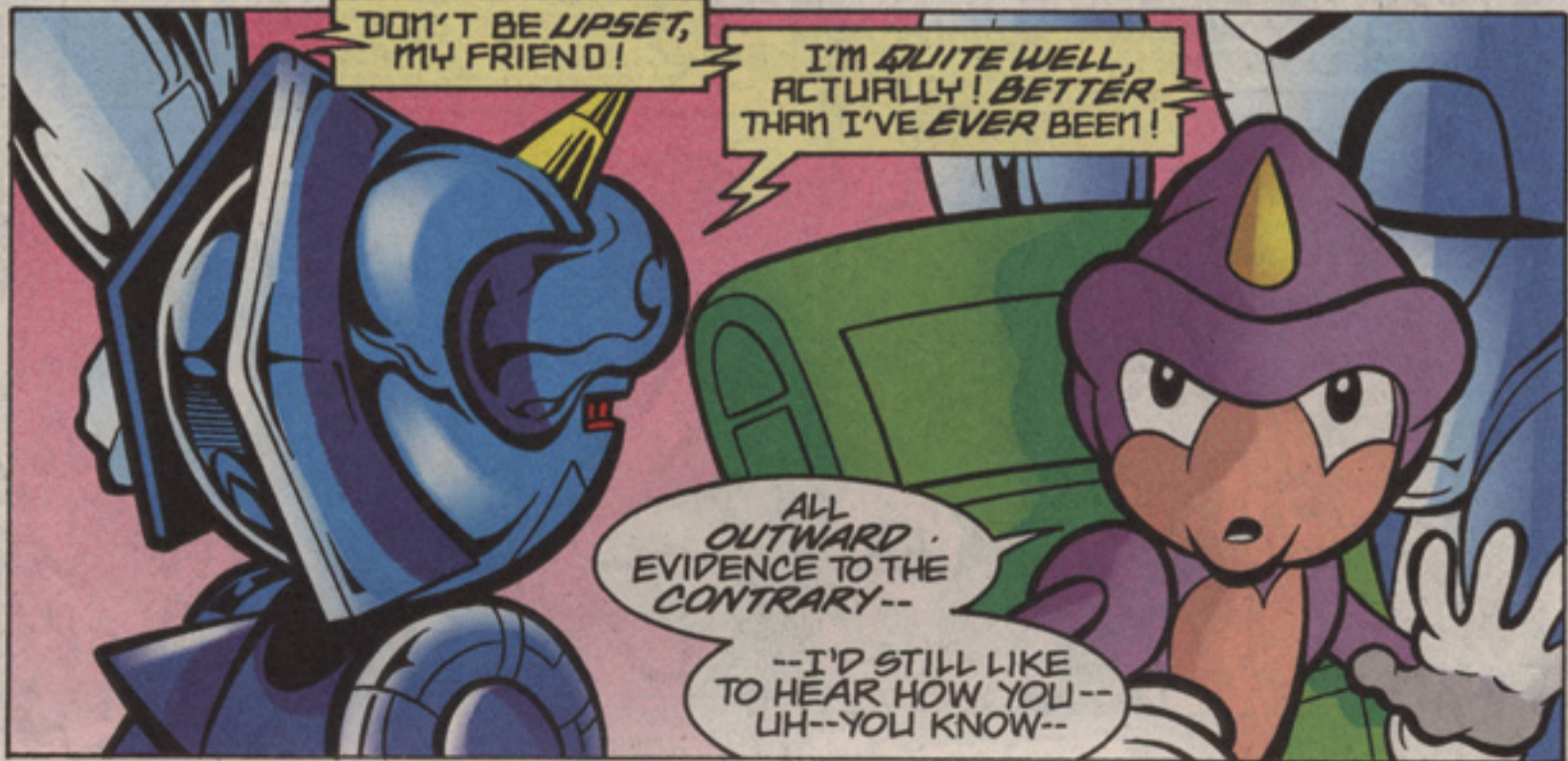
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DON'T BE UPSET,  
MY FRIEND!

I'M QUITE WELL,  
ACTUALLY! BETTER  
THAN I'VE EVER BEEN!

ALL  
OUTWARD  
EVIDENCE TO THE  
CONTRARY--

--I'D STILL LIKE  
TO HEAR HOW YOU--  
UH--YOU KNOW--



DON'T BE SO  
PEE-LEE,  
ESPID!

"I WAS ON A MISSION  
TO ASSIST IN THE  
EVACUATION OF THE  
CITIZENRY OF  
MOBOTROPOLIS--

HOW DID I ACQUIRE THE  
ARMOR PLATING IS  
WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO  
ASK, ISN'T IT?

"--WHEN WE DISCOVERED ROSIE AND  
HER YOUNG WARDS IN DIRE NEED...

"THE COMMANDER  
ISSUED A WARNING TO  
THE INVADING FORCES,  
THEN DIRECTED US TO  
ATTACK...

"NATURALLY, WE  
DID WHAT WE  
WERE TOLD..."

**KABOOM!**

BOMB--  
SHOW THEM  
WHAT I  
MEAN!

"DURING THE HEAT  
OF BATTLE, HOWEVER,  
MY FELLOW COMMANDOS  
ABANDONED ME ...

LET'S  
GO!

"YOU CAN'T BEGIN TO IMAGINE HOW  
DEVASTATED I FELT AT BEING LEFT  
BEHIND BY MY COMRADES,  
ESPECIALLY AFTER ALL WE'D BEEN  
THROUGH TOGETHER! \*

**WAIT!**

**AARGH!**

\* A WARPED P.O.V. OF  
EVENTS IN SONIC #75.- JFG.

"BY A QUIRK OF FATE, MY SALVATION CAME IN THE FORM OF A RATHER ECCENTRIC CHARACTER..."

PUT HIM OVER THERE-- ON THAT TABLE!

WHAT HAVE WE HERE? A CHAMELEON?

WHAT IS HE DOING SO FAR FROM THE FLOATING ISLAND?

THIS ONE MAY PROVE QUITE USEFUL AFTER ALL!

"HE WAS A KINDLY DOCTOR, AND IF HE HAD NOT TAKEN CARE OF ME, I MIGHT NOT HAVE SURVIVED MY INJURIES..."

... I'LL HAVE THE PERFECT LIEUTENANT TO CARRY OUT MY PLANS FOR THE FLOATING ISLAND!

ONCE YOU'RE EXPOSED TO THE EFFECTS OF MY ROBOTICIZER...

WHA--? WHERE--?

YOU JUST LIE BACK AND RELAX, MY FRIEND!

IT'LL ALL BE OVER IN JUST A MINUTE!

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE DOC DID, BUT I FELT LIKE A WHOLE NEW BEING AFTER..."

A MINDLESS DRONE CAN'T ACCOMPLISH MUCH, BUT ONCE I FINISH REPROGRAMMING MY LATEST RECRUIT HERE--

BUT...

--YOU'LL BE MORE THAN CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT THE TASK I HAVE FOR YOU--

--ON THIS PIECE OF REAL ESTATE SHOWN HERE IN MY 3-D DIARAMA!

DOCTOR ROBOTNIK THEN EXPLAINED HOW SOMETHING CALLED THE CHAOS EMERALD COULD SAVE THE ENTIRE PLANET FROM THE EVIL KING ACORN!

UNFORTUNATELY--

--A CERTAIN GROUP OF ECHIDNAS WISH TO USE THE EMERALD FOR THEIR OWN SCHEMES OF GLOBAL DOMINATION!

I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, MY FRIEND!

I THOUGHT OF ALL WHO WOULD BELIEVE MY TALE, IT WOULD BE YOU!

I'M BEGINNING TO DOUBT YOU'RE THE REAL VALDEZ!

YOU SURE DON'T SOUND LIKE HIM!

SINCE MORE PERSUASION IS REQUIRED--

--PERHAPS OUR CHARMING LIZA CAN CONVINCE YOU!

MY, MY! WE'RE NOT SO CO-OPERATIVE NOW, ARE WE?

COULD IT BE OUR LIZA HAS HAD A CHANGE OF HEART?

LET ME GO!  
LET ME GO!

OR IS IT THAT YOU'RE FINALLY  
ACKNOWLEDGING YOUR PREFERENCE  
FOR *ESPION* OVER ME?



WHAT IS  
HE TALKING  
ABOUT, LIZA?  
WHAT HAVE YOU  
DONE?

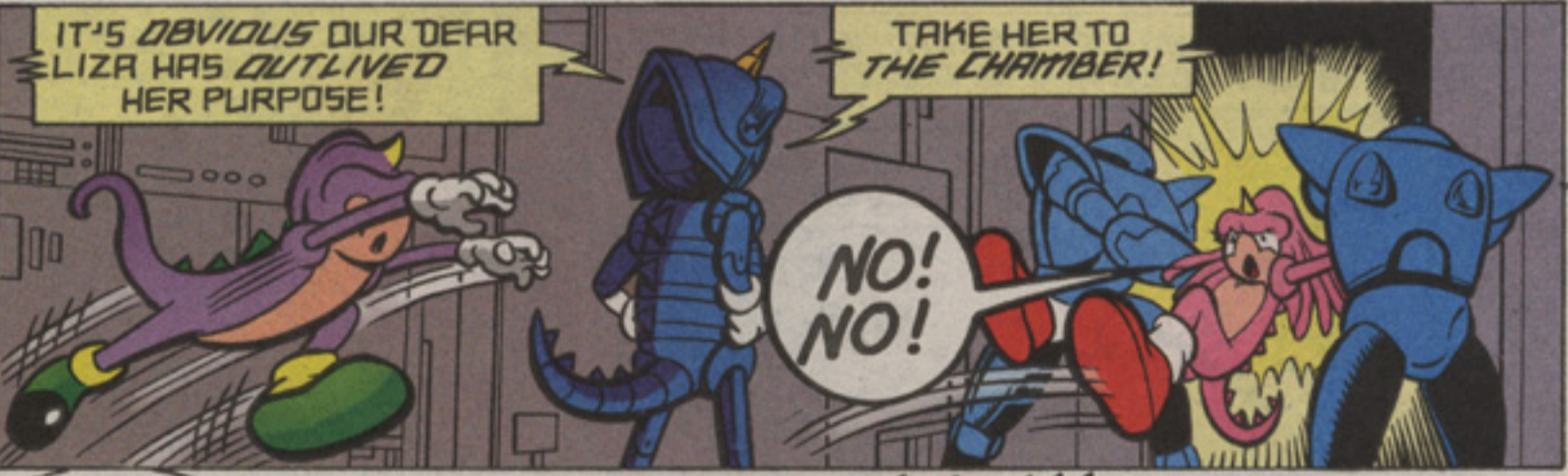
I KNEW YOU  
AND VALDEZ WERE  
BEST FRIENDS,  
ESPION--

--SO I THOUGHT  
YOU COULD REASON  
WITH HIM. IF I'D HAVE  
KNOWN THIS...



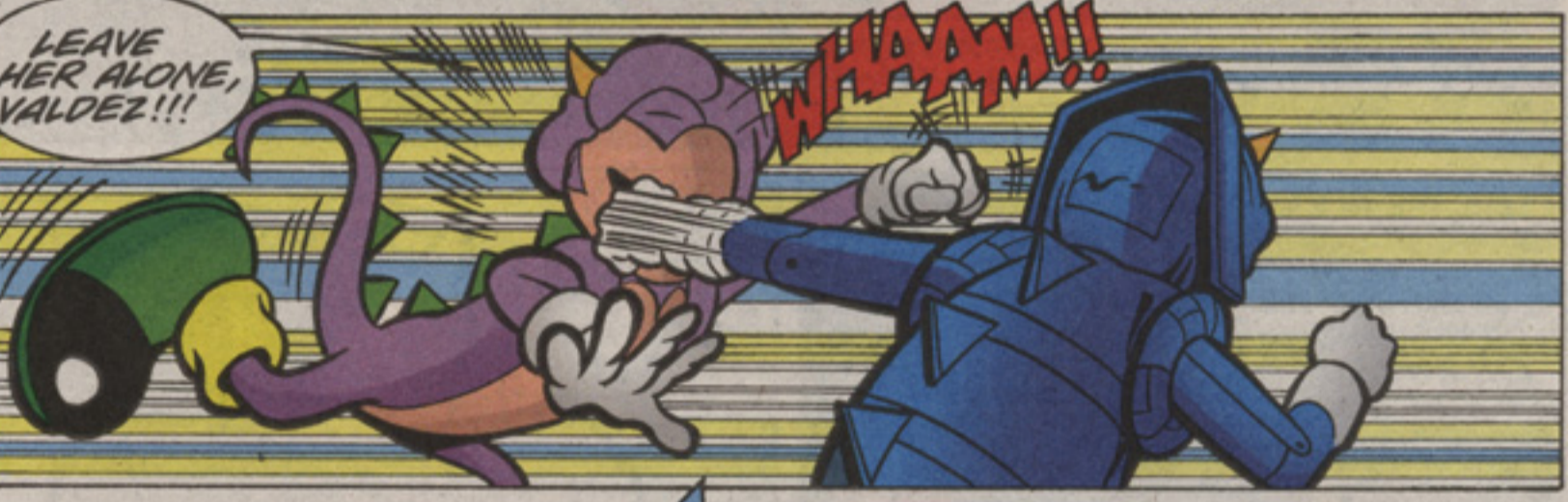
IT'S OBVIOUS OUR DEAR  
LIZA HAS OUTLIVED  
HER PURPOSE!

TAKE HER TO  
THE CHAMBER!



NO!  
NO!

LEAVE  
HER ALONE,  
VALDEZ!!!



WHAAM!!



JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE *SAYS* THEY'RE A FRIEND, ESPIO--

--DOESN'T MEAN THEY ARE ONE!

I OFFER UP EXHIBIT A!

OUR DEAR, SWEET LIZA--WHO SHOWED HER TRUE COLORS WHEN SHE BETRAYED ME!

BY DOING SO, SHE FORFEITED HER RIGHT OF FREE CHOICE!

ONCE HER TREATMENT IS COMPLETE, SHE WILL NEVER BE DISLOYAL AGAIN!

SUCH A FATE AWAITS ALL WHO WOULD OPPOSE ME!

YOU MONSTER!!!

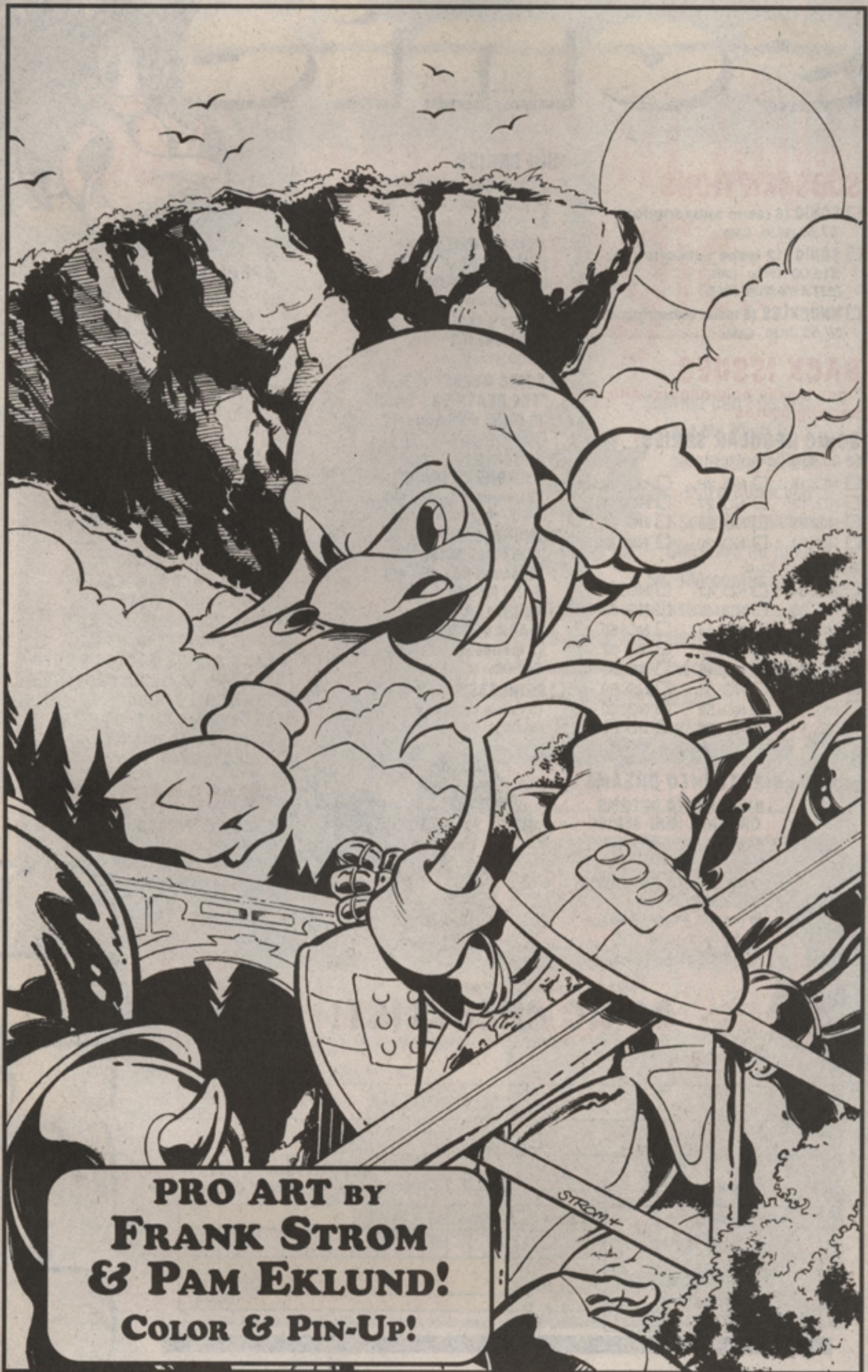
MAYBE--MAYBE NOT! THAT DEPENDS ON YOU, MY FRIEND!

TELL ME ALL YOU KNOW OF THE ECHIDNA *MACHLES*, AND HIS SECRETS, AND I'LL SPARE THE REMAINING CHAMELEONS!

BUT IF YOU DON'T, I'LL ROBOTICIZE EVERY LAST ONE OF YOUR PEOPLE!

TO BE CONTINUED...





**PRO ART BY  
FRANK STROM  
& PAM EKLUND!  
COLOR & PIN-UP!**